



October 5, 2012

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Sharon S. Schellin
Secretary of the Zoning Commission
Office of Zoning
Suite 200-S
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Zoning Commission Case #12-08

Secretary Schellin:

The Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) supports the approval of the Zoning Commission Case Number 12-08 (Text and Map Amendment to Create and Implement the Saint Elizabeth's East (StE) District for the Saint Elizabeth's East Campus). In general, Metro supports the establishment of vibrant, mixed-use, transit oriented communities at and around our Metrorail stations. The proposed zoning to create and implement the StE District is consistent with Metro's transit oriented development (TOD) goals and supportive of Metro's Joint Development program objectives. The establishment of the StE District is a mutually beneficial implementation tool necessary to facilitate revitalization and shape future development in this neighborhood.

Metro staff is committed to the District's goal to reinvigorate the Saint Elizabeth's as an important neighborhood center and recognize our role to promote revitalization and sound growth in the communities that we serve. The approval of the StE District designation will provide important land use and urban design provisions that are supportive of future development objectives in the area. As such, supporting this zoning amendment is an important strategy to building transit use and development patterns that would greatly strengthen the case for creating a desirable development opportunity at the Congress Heights Metrorail station. Proposed design provisions will provide flexibility in uses and appropriate building heights and densities thus ensuring matter-of-right on WMATA owned property.

Metro would also like to see as many steps taken as possible to improve the accessibility of all projects within proximity to Metrorail. Pedestrian-friendliness is extremely important to encourage the use of Metro by local residents. The proposed zoning amendments outline an enhanced multi-modal transportation network to improve community connectivity and access thus advancing development oriented to transit facilities and pedestrian friendly accessibility within the Metrorail station area.

**Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority**

600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202/962-1234

www.metroopensdoors.com

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**ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia**

CASE NO. **12-08**

EXHIBIT NO. **12**

EXHIBIT NO.12

Metro staff worked collaboratively with District agencies during the St. Elizabeth's Redevelopment Framework Plan planning process and considers the proposed amendment as an essential step to implement the public policy goals and of objects of the Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, Metro completed the Anacostia/Congress Heights Metro Stations Access and Capacity Study to make recommendations to improve commuting patterns, enhance connectivity and linkages to and between the Metro stations, increase transportation options and ensure that Metro operational and capacity needs are met within the context of future joint development in the area.

Again, WMATA supports the approval of ZC #12-08. We look forward to a continuing to work collaboratively with the District to meet our mutual development and transit operating needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Wall", written in a cursive style.

Stan Wall
Director
Office of Real Estate and Station Planning